

Madison Valley NW Diversion and Washington Park Stormwater Storage Project

SUMMARY OF STAKEHOLDERS' COMMENTS FROM 6/8/09 PUBLIC MEETING

On June 8, 2009, thirty community members attended a public meeting at the Bush School to learn about Phase 2 of the project (new stormwater pipeline in the northwest section of Madison Valley basin and stormwater storage in Washington Park). Community members also provided input on the construction impacts of the selected pipeline alignment and landscaping elements for the stormwater storage facility in Washington Park.

Overall Themes of Comments/Concerns

- Truck trips and traffic impacts
- Construction hours and schedule/sequencing to minimize impacts
- Construction activity (shaft, staging, service road) at 29th Ave E and E Roy St
- Transparency and access to information during design
- Advance communication and outreach during construction

Meeting Overview

SPU Project Manager, Brent Middleswart, provided a brief update on SPU's decision for the Phase 2 pipeline alignment and trenchless construction decision, and the factors affecting the decision.

Question & Answer on Overall Project

Question: You mentioned soft soil is a factor when you selected the alignment, why is that an issue?

Response: We try to stay away from soft soil because we want to minimize the risk of settlement under or around the pipeline.

Question: Was doing trenchless construction on Madison St considered?

Response: Yes. It was considered but we are concerned about the need to de-water (groundwater), to avoid trestle fill on Madison St near the park and the impact to traffic and businesses on Madison St.

Michelle Ramos, Staheli Trenchless Consultants, explained the trenchless construction technology that would be used to construct the Phase 2 pipeline. Launching and receiving shafts will be excavated approximately every 300 feet and at bends in the alignment. A hydraulic jack will push a casing pipe into the ground from the launch shaft while soil is excavated ahead of the pipe. It is this pipe that supports the soil above and adjacent to the excavation. Excavated soil is conveyed back through the pipe to the jacking shaft where it is removed for disposal. When the excavation reaches the receiving shaft, the excavation head

is removed and repositioned in the next jacking shaft to continue construction of the pipeline.

Question & Answer on Pipeline Construction and Alignment

Question: Will traffic on 29th Ave E and E Roy St be kept 1-way or 2-way during construction?

Response: During active construction, it will be kept 1-way with a flagger directing traffic. During the approximate 5-month inactive period, we will try to keep the traffic 2-way.

Question: What if there are issues with the debris piles?

Response: The contractor will be responsible for following restrictions on how to manage debris with erosion control measures. These measures will be specified by SPU and any changes suggested by the contractor will have to be approved by SPU.

Question: Regarding the launch shaft on 29th Ave E and E Roy St, can you put the shaft somewhere else?

Response: We have looked at jacking the pipe all the way from 28th Ave E and E Roy St. into the Park, but we would be approaching or exceeding the maximum length possible with this technology. We also need to change the slope of the pipe as it turns down the hill at the edge of the park property. We are still doing geotechnical work to determine the exact location of shafts but we will work to minimize construction impacts at all of the shaft locations.

Comment: We are concerned about 29th Ave E and E Roy St because it's narrow. 28th Ave E and E Roy St has really bad traffic.

Response: We acknowledge that this will be a challenge. Emergency vehicle access will be maintained at all times and fire hydrants will be accessible.

Question: Will shafts only be active one at a time?

Response: There is a good chance that activities will happen at more than one shaft at a time or that more than one is being built at the same time, but this has not been determined yet. The contractor will have to abide by traffic control plan requirements.

Question: Will the construction schedule be available to us?

Response: We expect to have the construction plan 2-3 weeks before construction starts but it is important for the contractor to have flexibility to do their work.

Question: How about long-term maintenance of the shafts and pipe?

Response: Once the work is complete, we will backfill the shafts and it will look like a regular street with a manhole. If necessary, the pipe will be maintained through these manholes as access points. There will be regular inspections of the pipes, no more than yearly.

Question: We're at the condo on 29th Ave E and E Roy St. and we are concerned about exhaust from equipment at the shaft outside our homes. Will there be guidelines/restrictions on how far equipment will need to be away from residential areas?

Answer: There really isn't a requirement as long as work is happening in the right-of-way but we can consider putting up a fence or a barrier between the work area and residences.

Question: Will the shaft area also be used as staging area?

Answer: There will be some staging around the shafts in order to complete the work, but we'll consider your concerns and try to work out what we can with our contractor.

Question: Will there be anything other than stormwater in the pipe?

Answer: No.

Question: What kind of limitation will SPU put on the construction hours in the contract?

Answer: The City noise ordinance in general allows for work to take place between 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. but we anticipate that the work hours will likely be 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. These hours will not be determined until a few months before construction begins. The greatest impact will only happen during active construction at the shaft locations; there will be little on-going activities at other times at the shafts. SPU will enforce restrictions on work hours and we look to the community for specific input about that.

Question: Can work happen in the fall/winter since people are more likely outside during summer?

Answer: We try to avoid construction during rainy season because it brings more construction difficulties and increases safety risks.

Comment: Families in Madison Valley have been impacted by flooding for many years and this project benefits those neighbors. Remember all the construction impacts SPU is talking about are only temporary.

Question: Can you use the Park Maintenance Building parking lot for storing equipment that doesn't need to be at shafts?

Answer: We can look into that.

Question: Can we have in the contract that workers don't park on the streets?

Answer: We have noted this concern.

Question: What will be some of the controls in the contract?

Answer: We can control work hours, parking, haul routes. We will work with the community on these issues. It can be a win-win situation since everyone would like to get the work finished sooner rather than later.

Stormwater Storage in Washington Park

Tom Finnegan, MWH, briefly described the concept design for the storage facility to be constructed in Washington Park.

Kenichi Nakano, Nakano Associates, explained that the draft landscape concept for the stormwater facility is in accordance with Parks Department's desire to keep an urban forest/natural theme at the site which is in line with the Olmstead design of the park.

Question and Answer on Stormwater Storage in Washington Park

Question: How long will there be water in the above-ground stormwater storage area?

Answer: Just for a period of hours after very extreme storm events.

Question: Is there a plan to monitor soil after storm events (for pollutants)?

Answer: We can check with our operations staff to see if there are existing monitoring plans but it is not in the scope of this project. The smaller storms carry more concentration of pollutants. The stormwater from larger storms is much more diluted in terms of contaminants because of the volume of water.

Question: Can we put all the storage below ground?

Answer: The cost would greatly increase if we were to build all the storage below ground. We have to abide by the cost and storage volumes approved in June 2008 by the city ordinance.

Question: Are the landscape drawings available online?

Answer: We will put them on the project Web site www.seattle.gov/util/MadisonValley.

Question: Will the soil moisture in the park be better after the project?

Answer: We will put in soil with better drainage so the site should be less swampy than it is now.

Comment: Maintain the tree "screen" between the Madison Lofts on E Madison St and the park. If these trees are removed as part of this project, new trees should be planted to maintain the same level of privacy.

Comment: Please notify City People's on high construction impact days/time on Madison St.

Comment: Since the project will be temporarily taking away some parking. These spots help with parking turnover; it would be nice if you can extend the boundaries of the 2-hour zone parking further out during construction.

Question: Will the service road be gravel?

Answer: Unfortunately, the slope is too steep for maintenance trucks to have 4-season access on gravel. It must be paved.

Next Steps

The public is encouraged to submit their comments to the project team. There will be a City Council briefing on 6/23/09. Details will be posted online along with the PowerPoint from this meeting. The next meeting for Phase 2 will take place in the fall.

These notes have been posted on the project Web site, www.seattle.gov/util/MadisonValley

For questions about the 6/8/09 public meeting, or these meeting notes, please contact Elaine Yeung at elaine.yeung@seattle.gov.